



2026 Artisan Support Grant Recipients

Summary

From over 800 applications, the 2026 WARP Grants Committee selected 21 recipients for Artisan Support Grants, in the form of \$500 and \$1,000 grants.

The committee awarded 3 individual grants and 18 group grants from 13 different countries.

A little about our applicants:

- Textile artisans from any country are welcome to apply.
- They can be an individual, a cooperative, or a small business.
- Their product must be fiber-based, handmade, and not mass-produced.

COLOMBIA: Association of Indigenous Producers of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

Textiles produced:

Arhuaco mochilas (bags) made from sheep wool using ancestral weaving techniques inherited from their elders.

Grant purpose:

Purchase of raw materials so that more women can weave and offer products for sale, and a digital catalog and printed materials to promote their mochilas at events.



Ghana: Call World Heritage Foundation

Textiles produced:

Hand-woven straw basketry textiles made from locally sourced vea grass/elephant grass using traditional coiling and twining techniques. Products include Bolgatanga market baskets, shopper totes, home décor mats, and hats.

Grant purpose:

The grant will remove the 3 biggest barriers limiting income for the Zorkor Women's Weaving Group:

1. Bulk Purchase of Raw Materials
2. Build Weatherproof Drying Racks & Storage
3. Market Access & Direct Sales Tools



PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Jayson Kassar

Textiles produced:

Tapa Cloth.

Grant purpose:

Recruit and pay young people to learn traditional tapa making from the mulberry tree, and purchase registration with National Cultural Commission.



INDIA: Karma Chakra Sustainable Development Foundation

Textiles produced:

Sustainable textiles and garments rooted in traditional craftsmanship and natural materials. Fabrics include desi cotton, khadi cotton, and other breathable natural fibers. Specialize in natural dyeing using plant-based colors, including indigo cultivated through eco-friendly processes.



Grant purpose:

1. Development of a dedicated website and investing in digital marketing to reach a wider national and global audience.
2. Purchase of improved hand-operated machinery and tools to enhance precision, efficiency, and overall product quality without compromising the handcrafted nature of their work.
3. Training and skill development programs.



PERU: Asociación Comunitaria y Biocultural AWQAPHUYA (ACOBIA)

Textiles produced:

Backstrap loom textiles using techniques inherited from the Chachapoya civilization: bags, scarves, blankets, table runners, and traditional clothing made with natural fibers and dyes extracted from native plants of the cloud forest.



Grant purpose:

Purchase of industrial sewing machine, design and online sales training. After 3 years learning how to weave, they are ready to start producing and selling products incorporating their ancestors' icons.



UGANDA: Youth Inclusion and Empowerment Network YIEN

Textiles produced:

Baskets, mats, recycled backpacks, bags, and a new and improved innovation called YIEN Smart Bags which will be made out of recycled plastic materials and will have solar lamps installed onto the bags. They will consist of a backpack, reusable sanitary pads, a menstrual pad sewing kit, and a menstrual health management information booklet. The refined bags will help young girls with disabilities in rural areas with no access to electricity to access light at night so that they are able to change their reusable sanitary pads and read their school books, enabling girls with disabilities to manage their menstruation safely, hygienically, and sustainably with dignity, allowing them to take advantage of their studies and keeping them in school during their menstruation.



Grant purpose:

Purchase raw materials, invest in tools and equipment, support skills development training for women and girls, monitoring and evaluation, marketing and branding.



MEXICO: Tierra de Bordadoras (Land of Embroiderers)

Textiles produced:

Hand-embroidered textiles inspired by the traditional Tenango style, including garments, decorated denim pieces, accessories, and decorative textiles.

Currently beginning to incorporate natural dyes made from local plants.



Grant purpose:

Develop a first pilot collection of Tenango embroidered textiles with natural dyes. Funds will be used for raw materials, basic tools and equipment, training, collection development, and basic marketing.



MEXICO: Arte Seda (Silk Art)

Textiles produced:

Blouses, shirts, skirts, dresses, coats, pants, scarves, rebozos, and quexquemets, all made with natural fibers and dyes.



Grant purpose:

Purchase of a straight sewing machine and an industrial steam iron.



TANZANIA: Forward Motion

Textiles produced:

Products made of sisal fiber, e.g. doormats, glass covers {decorated with beads}, wall decorations, fruit containers, flower vase hangers with wooden bottoms, baskets.



Grant purpose:

Purchase of materials, equipment, skills support program training, and repairs to the equipment, for a six months skills support program to 20 girls who dropped out of school due to unwanted pregnancy and poverty related reasons.



MALAYSIA: Anjez Art Project under JinnD Productions

Textiles produced:

Traditional Myanmar Chin textiles, including backstrap-woven shawls (Kounsho), lungis, and patterned fabrics featuring ancestral motifs which serve as maps of their cultural memory and identity.



Grant purpose:

Loom restoration, raw materials (cotton yarn and natural indigo/madder dyes imported from Myanmar), training & mentorship program, marketing & archive.



SRI LANKA: Vannimann Charitable Foundation

Textiles produced:

Traditional handmade textile products including sarees, traditional cloth materials, bedsheets, towels, pillow covers, napkins, table mats, baby clothing items, garments for girls and women, and other household textile products.

Grant purpose:

Purchasing quality yarns, raw materials, tools, and equipment, repairing looms, improving product finishing and quality control, supporting packaging and labeling development, supporting local product marketing and product display activities.



MEXICO: Katyí Ya'a

Textiles produced:

Traditional and innovative textiles made from native colored cotton of the region. Yarn is hand-spun with a drop spindle, sometimes dyed with natural materials, and woven on a backstrap loom. Products are typically blouses, huipiles, rebozos, scarves, and pillowcases, among others.



Grant purpose:

Purchase yarn for the artisans and have it ready to use, so they can advance more quickly in making the garments, and not be so reliant on the time-consuming process of spinning all their yarn.



RWANDA: Dufatanye Organization

Textiles produced:

Reusable sanitary pads made from banana fibers and other soft, durable, and environmentally friendly textile materials.



Grant purpose:

Purchase essential materials needed to produce reusable sanitary pads made from banana fibers, training of women and youth who work to produce the pads, community outreach & menstrual health awareness activities, distribution to vulnerable girls. These pads will allow them to manage their menstruation safely, comfortably, and with dignity, so they can continue attending school without interruption.



INDIA: Studio Predilectio

Textiles produced:

Handmade textiles developed from foraged bast fibers such as stinging nettle and orange wild rhea, woven using the traditional backstrap loom. Products include wearable textiles, bags, contemporary accessories, and home textiles such as pillows.



Grant purpose:

Support specialized training focused on bast fiber textiles, particularly stinging nettle and orange rhea, which are traditional plant-based fibers deeply connected to indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable textile practices in their region.



NIGERIA: Ajitos Adire Merchandise

Textiles produced:

Traditional Adire textiles with organic indigo. All Adire products are handmade locally with 100% cotton fabric and manual dyeing.



Grant purpose:

Materials for skill development for girls and women in the local community - a three-week intensive training on how to make Adire products, and indigo dye making.



INDONESIA: Biboki Weaving Group

Textiles produced:

Naturally dyed ikat woven fabrics in the form of sarongs, blankets, and shawls, available in various sizes.



Grant purpose:

Support the production of traditional naturally dyed woven textiles through the procurement of high-quality raw materials that meet market demands. The funding will be focused on providing the basic needs of weavers throughout one production cycle and will be distributed to all members of the weaving group.



UGANDA: Teachers Across Frontiers

Textiles produced:

Handmade fiber-based crafts including traditional mats, hats, and bags made from locally sourced papyrus and palm leaves. Focus on improving traditional weaving techniques while introducing simple modern designs for better market value.

Grant purpose:

Purchase and preparation of papyrus and palm leaves for weaving, purchase of tools and equipment, skills development workshops, environmental conservation training, marketing and promotion, group coordination.



INDONESIA: Tenun Ikat Rindi

Textiles produced:

Traditional handwoven textiles from Patanang Village in Sumba, Indonesia using ancestral Sumbanese weaving knowledge passed down through generations of women in the village with focus on preserving traditional textile practices while creating high-quality handwoven fabrics for contemporary and local markets. The cooperative works primarily with handwoven cotton textiles made using backstrap loom weaving, ikat techniques, embroidery, and natural dyes prepared from local plants and their dye gardens.

Grant purpose:

Purchasing finished textiles directly from women weavers (ensuring artisans can continue weaving without interruption), marketing and market access, purchase of raw materials and tools.



UGANDA: Byayi Creations Limited

Textiles produced:

Handwoven banana fiber textiles and lifestyle products that transform agricultural waste into functional, market-ready goods.



Our Carpets and Rugs



Grant purpose:

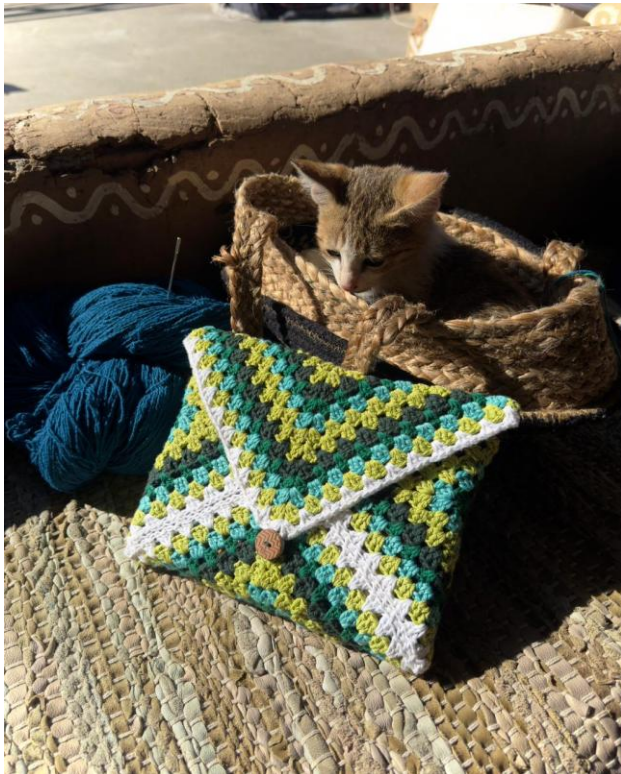
Purchase of two brand-new industrial straight-stitch sewing machines , complete with tables and motors, to speed up production while maintaining consistency on heavy, woven textiles and products.



INDIA: Bunti Aurat

Textiles produced:

Handcrafted crochet textile products using cotton, bamboo, and recycled yarn sourced from the Panipat industrial area.



Grant purpose:

Purchase of multi-function electric sewing machine, crochet production tools, yarn preparation tools, raw material for a focused product range, and exhibition participation costs.



UGANDA: Njabala Foundation

Textiles produced:

Traditional handmade mats (mukeeka) using indigenous weaving techniques passed down through generations in rural Eastern Uganda. The mats are made from palm leaves harvested and sourced from wetlands.



Grant purpose:

Purchase of raw materials, weaving tools, natural dyes, and production supplies needed for the creation of handmade mats; support collaborative artisan workshops; support documentation and storytelling efforts that help preserve indigenous weaving knowledge while promoting the cultural and contemporary value of these handmade products to broader audiences.

